

material passing therethrough in different parts of the extruded slab to thereby vary the thickness across the thermoplastic materials being extruded;

heating a thermoplastic material to a fluid;

extruding a slab of said fluid thermoplastic material through said selected and adjusted thermoplastic extrusion die gates;

trimming said extruded thermoplastic slab having a variable thickness to a predetermined size;

placing said trimmed slab of heated thermoplastic material into a thermoforming mold; and

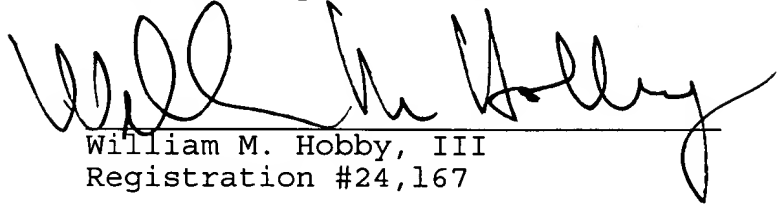
molding a predetermined thermoformed part in said mold, whereby a molded part is formed with a variable thickness from a slab of material heated during extrusion of the material.

REMARKS

Responsive to the Examiner's Action of May 25, 1999, Applicant has amended claim 1 in view of the 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph rejection. The rejection cites the limitation "the extrusion" in lines 3-4 and "the thickness" in lines 5-6 and states that there is insufficient antecedent basis of these limitations in the claim. The claim has been amended to change "the extrusion of" to "extruding a slab of thermoplastic material". Applicant has deleted the definite article "the" in front of "thickness" as required by the Examiner even though Applicant believes that in a method claim, a step of "varying the thickness" (of material) does not require an antecedent basis.

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

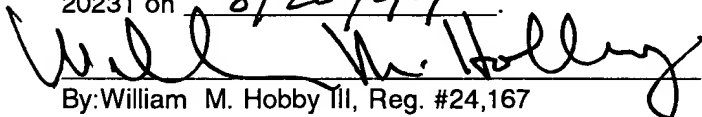


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